

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 28, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. NICHOLSON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 231.]

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of the State of Georgia for the repayment of certain moneys paid to Peter Trezvant, submit the following report thereon :*

It appears that the State of Georgia, by an act passed on the 25th of December, anno Domini 1847, admitted and provided for the payment of the claim of Peter Trezvant, the legal representative of Robert Farquhar for the principal, excluding interest, of certificates of indebtedness, issued to the legal representative of said Farquhar in 1794.

The indebtedness originated in supplies of clothing purchased for the use of troops, under General James Jackson, in 1777, by commissioners of Georgia, of Robert Farquhar, then a merchant of Charleston, South Carolina. A suit was brought for the amount of the claim in 1787, and a verdict rendered for the plaintiff. In 1793, the legislature of Georgia, by resolution, pledged the faith of the State that the claim should be paid, so far as it should be found to be well founded.

In 1794, it was audited by the auditing officers of the State, and certificates of indebtedness issued.

Peter Trezvant, who married the only child of Robert Farquhar, appears to have been a resident of Great Britain in 1838, when he petitioned Georgia for the payment of these certificates.

In 1847, after a full consideration of nine years, and after instituting a special commission to investigate it, the State of Georgia could discover no ground of law, or fact, upon which to refuse the payment of the claim.

And your committee are equally unable to see upon what ground it could have been refused.

The case is, therefore, the plain one of the duty of the national government to assume the payment of the expenses of the general military defense. The revolutionary war debts of all the States were assumed upon this principle, in 1790, and its correctness is not now open to question.

In satisfaction of this claim, the State of Georgia issued her bonds, dated January 1, 1848, payable in ten years, with annual interest: forty-four bonds of five hundred dollars each, and one bond of two hundred and two dollars and twenty-two cents, being in all for the sum of twenty-two thousand, two hundred and twenty-two dollars and twenty-two cents.

The payments upon these bonds, on and prior to the 1st day of January, 1858, amounted to thirty-five thousand, five hundred and fifty-five dollars and forty-two cents.

Your committee report the accompanying bill, and recommend its passage.